

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This application is a divisional of co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/283,723, filed October 30, 2002, entitled "Control Methods for Popping Popcorn," now U.S. Patent No. 6,726,945. That application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/041,195, filed January 8, 2002, entitled "Control Apparatus and Methods for Popping Popcorn," now U.S. Patent No. 6,534,103, which application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/420,479, filed October 19, 1999, entitled "Control Methods for Popping Popcorn," now U.S. Patent No. 6,352,731, which application is a continuation in part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/212,667, filed December 16, 1998, entitled "Automatic Popcorn Popper With Thermal Controller," now U.S. Patent No. 6,000,318, which application in turn is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/910,756, filed August 13, 1997, and entitled "Method for Popping Popcorn," now U.S. Patent No. 5,871,792, which application in turn is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/633,580, filed April 17, 1996, and entitled "Automatic Popcorn Popper with Thermal Controller," now U.S. Patent No. 5,743,172, which application in turn is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/345,303, filed November 28, 1994, and entitled "Automated Corn

Popper," now U.S. Patent No. 5,694,830, which applications ~~and issued patents~~
are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.